

30 MARCH
1980LAYSAN ISLAND NOTES - BASED ON
TELEPHONE DISCUSSION WITH
ERIC SCHLEMMER

He lived on Laysan as a boy in 1915. Used to see from 30 to 60 turtles per day basking on beaches - some of each - one got to large size. High tide would wash up on their tails, then they would return to the water. Turtles were frequently seen on the southwest side of the island, only a small amount of nesting took place on the island. No turtles were ever seen in the lagoon. He was on 1923 ^(E. Bryan also) Tarzeger Expedition. More turtles were present on Lisianski. He returned to island in 1971 with Kridler, Ken Norris, etc. "Belgian rabbits" were brought to Laysan.

In 1915 a 26' shark was caught at Laysan - it contained two turtles (dissolving, and a kerosene can). Also in 1915 he remembers walking way out on reef - not the case in 1971. He thinks island may have sunk, or something. Possibly military blasted coral during World War II. (This speculation based on fact that he saw lots of rusted drums on island in 1971.)

He mentioned island visit by Alison Bryan and Schwin Island - very few seals present.

I should have asked him if any "different" kinds
of seals were ever seen.